

THE TRUE WITNESS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1885

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We have sent out a large number of bills to subscribers in arrears, and up to date the returns have not been as large as they should be. As a newspaper, no more than any other business, can be run on an empty treasury, we earnestly trust that all our patrons receiving these bills will make it a point to pay off their indebtedness to "THE TRUE WITNESS" without delay. "THE TRUE WITNESS" is an exceedingly cheap paper, the subscription price (when paid in advance) being only one dollar. The amount due by each one is, accordingly, very small; but the aggregate of these trifling sums reaches a figure far up in the thousands. And these thousands are absolutely required to give each reader a bright, lively, instructive and entertaining newspaper such as "THE TRUE WITNESS" is today. We say so, without any boasting, to which our readers will readily admit we are not very largely given. "THE TRUE WITNESS" stands on its merits, and these entitle it to the first place in the ranks of Catholic journalism in Canada. This distinction it has achieved through the aid of the Montreal Daily Post, the only Irish Catholic daily in America. We have succeeded in furnishing to our people a paper that is creditable to them as well as to ourselves; we are engaged in fighting their battles, and it is only right and fair that we should meet with their generous cooperation. This co-operation can be rendered doubly effective by each subscriber settling his or her indebtedness and by each one securing a new reader and subscriber for the paper. In that way the usefulness of "THE TRUE WITNESS" will be increased and the public will be sure to receive greater benefits from its prosperity and progress.

In the twenty-eight large towns of England—containing an aggregate of 9,000,000 of population—the death rate for 1884 was 19.3 per 1,000, being 1.4 below the mean rate in the ten years ending in 1883. The rates for the three previous years were 18.9, 19.6 and 19.5. The decline has been, according to the *Lancet*, coincident with the Public Health acts of 1872 and 1875. From 1840 to 1870 the rate was practically stationary at 22.4; from 1871 to 1875 it declined to 22, and in 1876-80 fell to 20.08. In the first four years of the current decade it fell to 19.3, and the death rate in each year was lower than in any of the forty-three previous years. The effect of these reductions is to add two years to the life of every male and three and a half to the life of every female born in England.

A PERUSAL of the Governor General's speech at the opening of the Federal Parliament stamps it as one of the weakest and emptiest efforts that was ever delivered in our colonial throne. It resembles a schoolboy's letter more than anything else and is not half as interesting. There is not a single mention of any definite measure to be passed. All that the Government expects to do with the Franchise and Insolvency questions is to direct the attention of parliament to them and to invite windy discussion upon them. There is no promise of an effort to force legislation upon these two important matters. The Factory Act has been completely ignored. It is to be hoped that some member of the House, who has the interests of the working classes at heart, will elicit the reason why, and see that the rights and hopes of labor are not trifled with.

THE *Times-Democrat*, of St. Louis, Mo., has been gathering facts and figures concerning the population of that city which have created considerable surprise. In a population of 250,000, there are seven white women to every six white men, and four female to three male blacks. This is the largest excess of female population of any city in the Union, not even excepting Boston. The death rate is very favorable to the gentler sex. For the first half of January the deaths were, males, 186; females, 103. So it seems that in this remarkable city nine males die for every two

females, and the death rate for the men is forty a per thousand and for the women twenty-one. If nothing occurs to disturb this proportion in twenty years New Orleans will have no women for every man, and in a generation men will be so scarce that they will be too highly prized as ornaments to be of much service in the useful walks of life.

THERE has been a satisfactory falling off in the convict population of the country, the net decrease for the year throughout the Dominion being about 7 per cent. According to the annual report of the Minister of Justice relating to penitentiaries, there were on the 30th June last 474 in the Kingston Penitentiary, 265 in St. Vincent de Paul, 138 in Dorchester, 97 in Manitoba, and 93 in British Columbia. The older and most populous provinces are much better behaved than the younger ones, which have more than their share of criminals in proportion to their population. A gratifying feature of the report is the almost complete absence of female convicts; all told they only number thirty-four. The total number of male and female convicts is only 1,067, which give the very small proportion of one to every four thousand of the population. This is a good showing and speaks favorably of the law-abiding character of the people and of the general moral tone of the country.

Two of the vacancies in the Dominion Senate have been filled by the appointment of Dr. Sullivan, of Kingston, and of ex-Judge Gowan, of Barre. Dr. Sullivan is one of the most respected and representative Irishmen of Canada, and his appointment will be well received by the country at large, but especially by the Irish Catholic section of the population. Dr. Sullivan is a man of high personal character and of excellent abilities. He possesses a sound knowledge of the politics of the past and present, and is a fluent speaker. We would have preferred to see the learned and popular doctor occupying a seat in the House of Commons, where his services would be more effective and of greater benefit to the country. The other appointment, that of Judge Gowan, also gives an Irishman to the Senate, having been born in Wexford, Ireland, in 1817. He early attained a prominent position at the bar of Ontario, being appointed a district judge in 1843. Among the important positions he has held are those of commissioner for the consolidating of the statutes in 1859 and 1874, chairman of the board of public instruction, and royal commissioner in connection with the Pacific Railway investigation in 1873. He retired from the bench in 1883 on a superannuation.

It is not pleasant to feel that Canada at the same time is celebrating the culmination of a system which immolates everything to party, which has turned the nominations to a branch of the national Legislature into a mere bribery fund, and now threatens to degrade to the same use the appointments to the Bench of Justice.—*Toronto Week.*

The above is taken from the *Toronto Week*, Mr. Goldwin Smith's paper. We are happy to notice that the prosperity of Irish Catholics in the Dominion is such as to fairly make him howl. The allusions in the paragraph just quoted are directed against the appointment of Irish Catholics to the Senate, and to another subject on which the professor feels particularly sore. Since the advent of the Honorable Frank Smith to the councils of the Dominion Cabinet our fellow-countrymen in Ontario have reason to congratulate themselves. As independent in fortune as in character the hon. gentleman wields a powerful influence. Simultaneously with his entrance into the cabinet the Hon. John O'Donohue was appointed to the Senate. A short time ago through his influence the Hon. John O'Connor was elevated to the Queen's Bench of Ontario, and now the Hon. Dr. Sullivan, one of the most popular men of our race in the Dominion, has a seat in the upper house.

Our people are beginning to get their just due, and to such men as Goldwin Smith this is simply intolerable.

THE *Toronto Telegram* entertains some very peculiar notions regarding the late dynamite outrages, and backs them up with two singularly wild and unwarranted assertions. It says that "after calling these 'dynamite' rascals into activity by denouncing the English Government and everything that is English, as 'brutal and bloody, Parnell and those who are behind him cannot be permitted to 'shake off their responsibility. These outrages are the natural outcome of the agitation which the Nationalists have been 'carrying on. The Nationalists started the 'fire, and now it has got beyond their control they desire to repudiate all responsibility for the results." In the first place it is not any denunciation of the British Government that has given birth to the "dynamite" crew. They are, on the contrary, called into activity by either one of two things, viz., by the desire to benefit by and live on England's secret service money; or by an uncontrolled and unreasoning hatred of coercion and of long ages of misrule which have reduced a beautiful and bountiful island to misery. Consequently it is quite absurd and untenable to say that these outrages are the natural outcome of the national agitation. In fact, the situation would be extremely more desperate if the Irish people were not guided by discreet and responsible leaders, and if they had not the agitation as a means and a channel through which to express their condemnation of past oppression, their rooted dissatisfaction at their present position in the Empire, and their unwillingness to be governed by a

Parliament which is foreign, if not inimical, to the best interests of Ireland, to her aspirations and hopes. We trust the *Telegram* will bear these things in mind, and govern itself accordingly in the appreciation of Irish affairs and events.

A PAPER on wheat production in India has just been issued, and is based on the proceedings of the revenue and agricultural department of the Indian Government. It gives the result of inquiries addressed to the local government of India as to the cultivation of wheat. After referring to the varieties of wheat grown, and mentioning the increased attention given to soft wheat for export, the paper refers to the acreage and cost of production of wheat in India—two points which must necessarily interest all wheat growers in America, since India has entered the European market as their most formidable competitor. The area under wheat in British India is put at 20,000,000 acres and in native territory at 6,000,000 acres. The average produce of the total area is estimated at 135,000,000 cwt. As to what proportion of this large quantity is available for export it is said to be a matter of conjecture; but in 1883 the quantity exported was 22,333,333 cwt. Prices in Europe at the end of 1883, although about 8s. per quarter more than in the last three months of 1884, are declared to have been insufficient to remunerate exporters of Indian wheat. When wheat in London was 43s. a quarter there was a fair margin of profit to shippers; but after the price of Indian wheat went down to 33s. to 35s. it no longer paid to export. The cost of cultivation is so various that the government of India do not profess to give an estimate of their own. They quote the estimate of an expert, however, "for what it is worth," to the effect that, including rent, the cost of production is about 12s. a quarter, and that the native cultivator requires 15s. to 18s. to remunerate him. This, it is explained, involves a market price of about 18s. 6d. at a market center in the interior of India and at least 40s. in London.

THE *Montreal Herald* coincides with the view taken by *THE POST* in regard to the responsibility of the dynamite outrages, and protests that it is both unwarranted and unjust to identify the murderous miscreants with the Irish people and make the latter suffer for the crimes of a few. Our esteemed contemporary says "it is well that people generally should distinguish clearly between the legitimate agitation carried on by the Irish national party and the murderous outrages of men who, whether from fanaticism gone mad, or to gratify the murderous instincts of depraved hearts, or from fancied wrong done to themselves or their relatives by British authority, do not hesitate to kill, pillage and destroy. It sometimes happens that a good cause is clouded, even wrecked by those who claim to be acting in its name. In this latest instance of an attempt at wholesale massacre, it would be a grievous wrong to the people of Ireland and the cause which its parliamentary leaders are advocating to treat the promoters of these dynamite explosions as friends of Ireland. They are in truth the enemies of Ireland, the worst enemies Ireland ever knew." This is the view all reasonable men will take of the situation and of the events; but we have in our midst an Irish-speaking paper that refuses to listen to reason. Because the *London Pall Mall Gazette* insists that a distinction must be made between those who are carrying on a legitimate agitation and the dynamiters, the pious *Daily Witness* rises to remark that its London contemporary "seems to be seeking a reputation for coolness in the present dynamite crisis at the expense of its intelligence." We are afraid our evening confere has not much of either one or the other.

The action of Senator Riddleberger of Virginia, in opposing Bayard's Resolution of sympathy with England over the London explosions, was at first thought to be reckless, but, on sober second thought, the press and the people are coming to the conclusion that his course was the correct one. The *Chicago Herald* says that "Senator Riddleberger will have to be looked upon with more favor hereafter. It is evident that there is some North American blood in his veins. The United States Congress has had no call to express sympathy with England or abhorrence of the use of dynamite. It was not elected for any such purpose. England has made many of its own subjects its bitterest foes. Its tyranny has been the shame of a boasted civilization for ages. Here in America we know what it is. It oppressed the colonies until it could do so no longer and then it lost no opportunity to annoy or disturb a people whom it could not enslave. If the policy of its corrupt ruling class raises up such enemies of law and order as dynamiters unquestionably are, what business is it of ours? Not a particle of evidence has yet been presented that these explosions are the work of Irishmen. If they are, what American, giving thought to the days when his ancestors were struggling with that remorseless tyranny, would care to be first in extending sympathy to the oppressor? If Irishmen are dynamiters England has made them such. The same power which, with fiendish cruelty, puts murder and destruction into the hearts of these men can with justice make them its warmest supporters. It may be, however, that the explosions are the work of lawless Londoners, common criminals bent on plunder or mischief. In any event they are nothing to us, and Mr. Riddleberger's opposition to a ridiculous expression of sympathy which is not felt should be remembered to his credit."

THE DEMANDS OF THE ENGLISH PRESS.

The English newspapers are not quite satisfied with the Bayard resolution, which was adopted in the American Senate, and expressed the national abhorrence of the dynamite atrocities in London; they persist in imputing to the United States full responsibility for the inhuman campaign against innocent life, and demand that the American government take effective measures to prevent a repetition of the outrages. It is proposed that a law be passed prohibiting the manufacture or possession, except on certain conditions, of explosive compounds, and it is argued that the vigorous enforcement of this statute would stamp out the evil. But that is a mistake. It would not check the collection of funds for the dynamite conspirators, and, with an ample supply of money, the explosives could be much more conveniently prepared on the continent, even in Great Britain itself, and in closer proximity to the objects of attack. When the utility of that legislation would be made evident, the English newspapers would take another step and ask the American Government to deprive the dynamiters of the sinews of war, by suppressing all appeals for subscriptions through the newspapers, all meetings and organizations through which so-called emergency funds are collected. This would be an invitation to tread on delicate if not illicit ground, as the liberty of assembly and the freedom of the press would be more or less at stake. Legislation on these fundamental rights of the American people would be dangerous and would certainly lead to exasperation and oppression. As an American exchange remarks, "no Federal statute, framed to stifle the preachings and extinguish the resources of the dynamiters could be much effective without a resort to the most odious features of the Forster Coercion act—without, in other words, suspending the writ of habeas corpus and the right of trial by a jury of the Federal district in which the crime alleged took place. Now, such suspensions lie within the competence of a British Parliament, but they are expressly interdicted to an American Congress by the Constitution."

Great Britain has the protection of itself in its own hands. It has long been the rendezvous and the refuge of the political assassins and dynamiters of Europe. Let these be extirpated and driven from their shelter. The *New York Sun* discussing the recommendations made by the English press to the American Government regarding the course to be pursued on the dynamite question, says "it would be unreasonable for England, which shrinks from subjecting herself to a treatment of prohibitive and coercive acts, and which has yet to try the experiment of the Forster legislation on herself as well as on Ireland, to demand from the United States such reckless, high-handed, extra-legal action as would have a chance of uprooting the malignant outgrowths of Irish antipathy. What is England doing to defend herself? What has she done, or will she do, to shield Continental Governments, which also have reason to dread assassination or explosion? What steps has she taken to prevent the manufacture of dynamite for use in St. Petersburg or at Niederwald? Do or do not Russian Nihilists and German Anarchists make, of London at this moment their council room, their armory, their treasury?"

It is far from certain that every ounce of the explosives used on Saturday was not made in the heart of London under the noses of the metropolitan police. Let England show a determination to protect herself and to protect her Continental neighbors before she cries out so wildly for help from this side of the Atlantic. Let her try how a suspension of freedom of speech, of printing, of meeting, and of subscribing money feels at home before inviting us to swallow such a bitter prescription on her behalf. Such a prescription, it is true, is the only form of action, as distinguished from the verbal expression of condolence, which would even aim to cut off the source from which the dynamiters are believed to draw pecuniary encouragement."

But facts, the *Sun* concludes, may as well be looked in the face first as last, and it must be acknowledged that an endeavor to muzzle speech, however foolish and malignant, would involve legislation of a kind explicitly prescribed by the American constitution and which the American people would not brook for an hour. A remedy for this terrible dynamite evil and a preventive of the shocking outrages must be sought for nearer home.

ARE TITLES BRIBES AND BADGES OF SERVITUDE?

At the late banquet, held in this city, in honor of Sir John A. Macdonald, the Premier devoted a good deal of his attention and of his spite to Sir Richard Cartwright, because the latter advocated Canada's right to assume her independence when she would be ready. Sir John, in tones of derision and scorn, spoke of the degradation (?) of his brother knight, and of his impertinence in standing up for Canada first, last and always. Sir John even went so far as to apply the word "traitor" to Sir Richard, and denounced him for having dared to talk of independence after having been made a knight. Sir Richard has taken the first favorable opportunity to fling back the charge of treachery and to emphasize the views he holds regarding the future of Canada. He sent his compliments to the Premier across the floor of the House of Commons on Friday evening in a rattling speech. Instead of admitting that he was a traitor to the Queen, he boldly maintained that the Canadian who was silenced for any reason was a traitor to Canada. We are glad to notice that this sen-

timent was loudly cheered in the House. If, because of receiving an Imperial decoration, a Canadian statesman is bound to be silent when the interests of Canada require that he should speak, and if these titles are meant to stop the free discussion of matters pertaining to our national welfare and future, then, said Sir Richard, "these decorations and these titles are not 'honors, but bribes and badges of servitude.' This sentiment was received as it deserved to be, with significant enthusiasm, which plainly indicates that the national feeling is not extinct in the House. Sir Richard said he had no inclination to question the Premier's loyalty, which was a most lucrative sort of loyalty, and so long as loyalty continued to pay, Her Majesty would have no more devoted subject than the present Prime Minister of Canada. The independent knight concluded by saying that neither threats nor bribes would prevent him from doing or saying what he believed to be for the best interests of the people and of the country.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

A study of the composition of the Dominion House of Commons leads to some very interesting facts and figures. There are altogether 211 members in the House. Of these Ontario supplies 93; Quebec 65; Nova Scotia 21; New Brunswick 16; British Columbia 6; Prince Edward Island 6; and Manitoba 4. A remarkable and surprising fact regarding the social condition of the legislators, or fathers of the country, is that a large majority of them are not even fathers of a family. Their usefulness in this respect is woefully limited. Out of the 211 members in the House, only 81 are married; as many as 118 are bachelors, while 12 are widowers. We suppose it is this rather marked absence of matrimonial alliance among our legislators that encouraged Sir John Macdonald to introduce woman suffrage in his Franchise Bill. Woman suffrage could not be broached in a more favorable parliament. If husbands and fathers of families were in the majority there would be little likelihood of their wives and daughters ever being invited to leave their domestic sphere for the hustings, the stump or the polling booth. One hundred and eighteen bachelor representatives are too many for any respectable Parliament.

There is a considerable variety in the calling and occupation of the members. Some sixteen branches of business and of the professions are represented. The merchants rank first in point of numbers, the lawyers take second place, and farmers hold the third place. The following is a list of the occupations, with the number of members that fill them:—

Merchants.....	85	Journalists.....	8
Lawyers.....	54	Brewers.....	4
Farmers.....	34	Brokers.....	3
Doctors.....	16	Contractors.....	2
Mill Owners.....	16	Bankers.....	2
Gentlemen.....	14	Engineers.....	1
Builders.....	12	Architects.....	1
Notaries.....	8	Professor.....	1

Total..... 211

That list represents the varied interests of the Dominion pretty fairly and effectively. The legal profession has an undue proportion when the total number of lawyers is considered, but then they make up for it in point of talk, if not brains. We, however, notice one important interest which is conspicuously without its representatives, and that is labor. The artisan population of the country, unlike their agricultural friends, are without any representation that they could count on, and use to advance their interests before parliament.

From the standpoint of nationality there is also considerable diversity. No less than seven races have representatives in our Canadian Parliament. The English predominate, followed by the French, with the Irish close on their heels. The following is the classification.

English descent.....	58
French.....	49
Irish.....	44
Scottish.....	35
American.....	20
German.....	4
Danish.....	1

As will be seen, our Canadian Parliament is a rather diversified body and of an unusually cosmopolitan character. Notwithstanding the great variety of interests, of races and of creeds represented therein, harmony and union generally characterize all the proceedings of the House. It is pleasing to see all these elements working and pulling together for one great object—the development, the prosperity and happiness of this Canada of ours.

THE CHINESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Chinese immigration to British Columbia continues to be almost as large as that of whites, and the fact is far from giving satisfaction to the people. A correspondent from Victoria writing to the *Witness* gives some interesting details about the mode of life, condition and general conduct of the Chinese. The writer has apparently studied the Chinese question closely and fully. He confesses it is a difficult problem to solve and that a good deal can be said for and against. Some hold that the Chinese are indispensable to the building up of the Province; others say that they are "an unmitigated evil." The *Witness* correspondent puts these extreme views down as exaggerations, and says the truth is that the Chinese were of great service to the colony in the past, but that they are now a nuisance which at no very distant date may become a danger. The following sketch of the habits and surroundings of the heathen in the Pacific Province suggests the question, how can the people of Columbia prosper and develop with such a festering element in their midst? The

correspondent writes:—"The Chinese are said to be scrupulously clean about their persons, and, as a general rule, so they are so far as their outward garments are concerned. Those who wear the Chinese shoe are very particular especially about the spotlessness of their white cotton stockings. But when you meet them without stockings, as in mild weather you not unfrequently do, both men and women, you begin to entertain somewhat serious doubts about their wonderful personal cleanliness. Their dens are too filthy for description; it is no exaggeration to say, that any ordinarily well-kept pig-sty is cleaner and smells sweeter. These remarks do not, of course, apply to the higher order of Chinese, of whom there are ten or twelve families. The lower order seem to have absolutely no sense of morality. They will steal each time they can without being detected, or rather pilfer, for they are afraid of being followed up if they took anything of value. They have a barefaced but most plausible lie ready for every emergency. Among themselves they will commit murder without considering that any moral guilt attaches to the act. They live in promiscuous cohabitation; with the exception of the upper class, it is said there are not more than three married Chinese women in town. The Chinese population is about 9,000 and there are a fair number of women among them, though the men of course far outnumber them. As a rule they are all harlots, at disposal of white or yellow alike."

It will be interesting to know how the report of the Royal Commission will deal with these damaging charges.

LEGISLATION AND PARLIAMENT.

Preparations for the opening of the third session of the fifth parliament of Canada have all been completed, and the legislative work of the session will be inaugurated this afternoon with the usual ceremonies. The *Gazette* naively remarks that looking back over the principal events of the Parliamentary recess, "it is not difficult to anticipate the subjects which the Governor-General is likely to touch upon in his speech." This is a rather neat way the Conservative organ has taken to palm itself off as a political prophet. As there is but little difficulty in anticipating a thing that is before one's eyes or in one's hand, our confere cannot be accorded much credit for a forecast that is taken bodily from a copy of the Governor's speech. We are told at the outset that the session is not likely to be marked by important legislation or incidents of other than a commonplace character.

This would seem to mean that the two most weighty measures that have been introduced for some time past in parliament, the Franchise Bill and the Factory Act, will receive but scant consideration again during the forthcoming session. What is the use of calling parliament together if only incidents of a commonplace character are to be discussed and to take up the time of our legislators at an enormous expense to the country. Parliament should not be made a theatre for the presentation of farces and comedies. A measure most urgently needed and most imperatively demanded by the wage-earning classes of the population is the Factory Act, and it appears it will not even receive the favor or the honor of a mention in the speech from the chair. It has been dropped by the Government, for what reason will probably be elicited in the earlier stage of the session. To say that there are no important matters to engage the attention of the members is to laugh at the condition of the Dominion.

Besides the Factory Act there is the question of an Insolvency Act, which requires immediate solution; then there is the question of Chinese Immigration, which is becoming, according to competent witnesses, a positive danger; and finally, there is the Franchise, an extension of which would be most acceptable to the people.

These are subjects to which the close and serious attention of parliament should be directed without delay or dodging. The labor of the people requires more protection and better safeguards than exist at present; the trade of the country requires to be more effectively shielded from the tactics of dishonest debtors; the population of the Dominion wants no increase from undesirable sources, and the taxpayers of the country want an enlargement of the franchise. In face of these fundamental requirements, it is absurd to say that there is no important legislation to bring before parliament.

JOHN BRIGHT AND FEDERATION.

At a great Liberal meeting held in Birmingham, the Right Hon. John Bright discussed the question of Imperial Federation. The scheme was severely criticized by Mr. Bright; it was neither expedient nor useful, and, if persisted in, it was bound to result in the loss of Canada. In combating the idea of Colonial Federation with Great Britain, the English statesman drew attention to the inconsistent attitude of the present Premier of Canada on the question. Mr. Bright pointed out that the Canadian Prime Minister assumed the most active part in the Protection movement in the Dominion, and for the success of which even British connection would have been thrown overboard, as was threatened at the time in the leading Government organ, and then Sir John Macdonald next appears at a Federation League meeting in London for the purpose of supporting the proposal of a closer union between the two countries. Mr. Bright was at a perfect loss to understand how any public man could thus attempt to hold two such incompatible positions, and he could not conceive of any man having the face to appear at a meeting of Englishmen to advocate a closer union under such circumstances. Referring to the proposals of the Hon. Edward Blake, that Canada should have